

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1294

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR CH US XM PN
SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY SATIRIZES SENATE FOOT-DRAGGING ON PANAMA CANAL
TREATIES

1. SUMMARY. AN "INTERNATIONAL LITERARY RAMBLINGS" COLUMN IN THE MAY 8 PEOPLE'S DAILY SATIRIZES PANAMA CANAL ZONE AMERICANS, THE US SENATE IN GENERAL, AND SENATOR DECONCINI IN PARTICULAR FOR ALLEGEDLY FAILING TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE ERA OF COLONIALISM HAS ENDED. EMPLOYING A PEJORATIVELY FAMILIAR TERM FOR AMERICANS THROUGHOUT HIS ESSAY, THE PSEUDONYMOUS AUTHOR SZU-MA TA CASTIGATES THE DECONCINI RESERVATION AS A SCHEME TO RETAIN SPECIAL AMERICAN PRIVILEGES IN THE CANAL ZONE. THE AUTHOR POINTS OUT WITH HEAVY IRONY THAT IT IS NOT SENATE VOTES BUT RATHER THE VOTES OF THE PANAMIAN PEOPLE, BACKED BY THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD, WHICH WILL DECIDE REVERSION OF
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THE CANAL. SUCH ATTACKS ON ALLEGED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND CONOLIALISM ARE FOUND VERY INFREQUENTLY IN THE PAGES OF PEOPLE'S DAILY. END SUMMARY.

2. AN "INTERNATIONAL LITERARY RAMBLINGS" COLUMN IN THE MAY 8 PEOPLE'S DAILY SATIRIZES PANAMA CANAL ZONE AMERICANS, THE US SENATE IN GENERAL, AND SENATOR DECONCINI IN

PARTICULAR FOR ALLEGEDLY FAILING TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE ERA OF COLONIALISM HAS ENDED. PSEUDONYMOUS AUTHOR SZU-MA TA, A FREQUENT BUT NOT PARTICULARLY AUTHORITATIVE CONTRIBUTOR OF ARTICLES ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, ENTITLES HIS PIECE "MR. SENATOR'S (PERUSAL) OF THE OLD IMPERIAL ANNALS" -- AN IRONIC COMPARISON OF THE DECONCINI RESERVATION WITH THE DESIRE OF AN ANCIENT CHINESE TO PERPETUATE THE SOCIAL SYSTEM OF HIS ERA ALTHOUGH IT HAD OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS. THE ESSAY CONCLUDES WITH THE FOLLOWING VERDICT: "THE TRAGIC THING ABOUT AMERICAN SENATOR DECONCINI AND HIS ILK RESIDES IN THE FACT THAT WHILE THEY MANIFESTLY LIVE IN THE LATTER PART OF THE SEVENTH DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THEY NEVERHTELESS CONTINUE TO FINGER THROUGH THE OLD IMPERIAL ANNALS, WISHING TO MOVE THEIR OLD SWEETHEART AND SHATTERED DREAMS OF THE EARLY PART OF THIS CENTURY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY."

3. SZU-MA TA EMPLOYS THE PEJORATIVELY FAMILIAR TERM "MEI-KUO-LAO" (ROUGHLY, "AMERICAN BULLY-BOYS") FOR AMERICANS THROUGHOUT HIS ESAY. WHILE A FACTUAL OUTLINE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON CANAL REVERSION CAN BE FOUND IN THE ARTICLE, THE TONE IS POLEMICAL AND A NEGATIVE CONSTRUCTION IS PLACED ON AMERICAN ACTIONS. SZU-MA TA TAKES AIM AT THEDECONCINI RESERVATION AS A SCHEME TO RETAIN SPECIAL AMERICAN PRIVILEGES IN THE CANAL ZONE; "AT A TIME WHEN THE CORPSE OF AMERICAN SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVILEGE IN PANAMA IS ABOUT TO BE BURIED AND HAS ALREADY BEEN PLACED IN THE COFFIN," THE AUTHOR CNTINUES, "IT IS STILL HOLDING TIGHTLY ONTO ITS MONEY POUCH AND IS UNWILLING TO RELEASE IT."

4. THE AUTHOR POINTS OUT WITH HEAVY IRONY THAT IT IS NOT SENATE VOTES WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY DECIDE PANAMA CANAL REVERSION, BUT RATHER THE VOTES OF THE PANAMIAN PEOPLE, BACKED BY THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD.

5. COMMENT: SUCH ATTACKS ON ALLEGED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM ARE FOUND VERY INFREQUENTLY IN THE PAGES OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY; THE "INTERNATIONAL LIERARY RAMBLINGS" COLUMN IS CUSTOMARILY DEVOTED TO BITING EXPOSURES OF SOVIET HEGEMONISTIC ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SO LONG AS THE PRC WISHES TO RETAIN CREDIBILITY AS AN IMPARTIAL OPPONENT OF ALL "IMPERIALISM," HOWEVER, IT IS OBLIGED TO PUBLISHPERIODIC INDICTMENTS OF AMERICAN ACTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT MAY BE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL REVERSION ISSUE, FOCUSsing AS IT DOES ON SOVEREIGNTY, HOLDS FOR THE CHINESE A CERTAIN PARALLEL WITH TAIWAN WHICH THEY CANNOT

IGNORE. TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THROUGH SILENCE THAT
THE CHINESE RECOGNIZE RESIDUAL "SPECIAL RIGHTS" MIGHT, IN
THE CHINESE VIEW, LEAD TO UNWANTED -- AND UNJUSTIFIED --
ANALOGIES WITH THE TAIWAN SITUATION.
WOODCOCK

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